



**City of London**  
Ward Boundary Review

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Introductory Council Workshop

May 7, 2024





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# Agenda



**Introduction to the  
2024 Ward  
Boundary Review**



**Focus on the  
City of London**



**Next Steps and  
Discussion**

# Key Questions



**Consider  
these  
Questions**



- How does the present electoral arrangement for the City of London measure up?
- Do the current wards deliver **fair representation, conducive to good governance**?
- What are the goals of a Ward Boundary Review?
- What information does Council need to **make an informed decision**?

# 2024 Ward Boundary Review



## Why Undertake the Review?

Prepare Council to consider and discuss whether to maintain the existing ward boundaries or pursue an alternative arrangement.

## Objectives of the Review

### Fair Representation

Reviewing electoral arrangements can help ensure equal representation and give communities an equitable voice in decision-making processes.

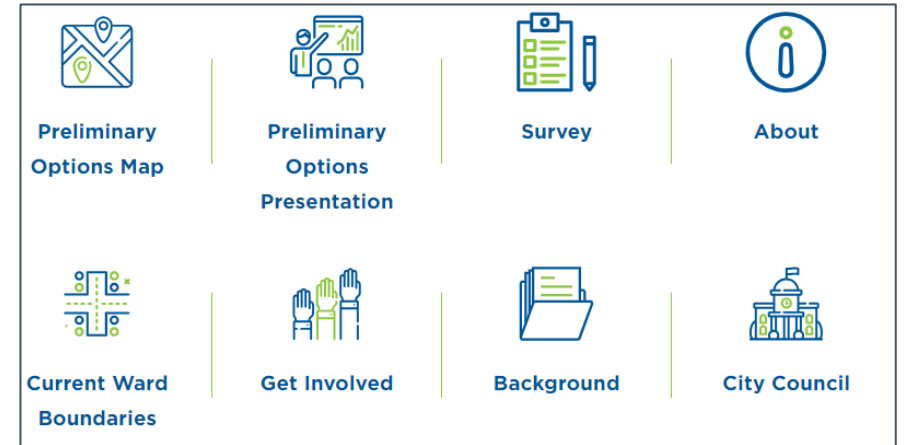
### Consider Population and Demographic Changes

A review can align boundaries, reflect population shifts, and better serve evolving community distribution and interests.

### Improve Democracy

An independent review promotes transparency and accountability, bolstering trust in the democratic system, and increasing civic engagement.

## Website Materials and Interactive Tools

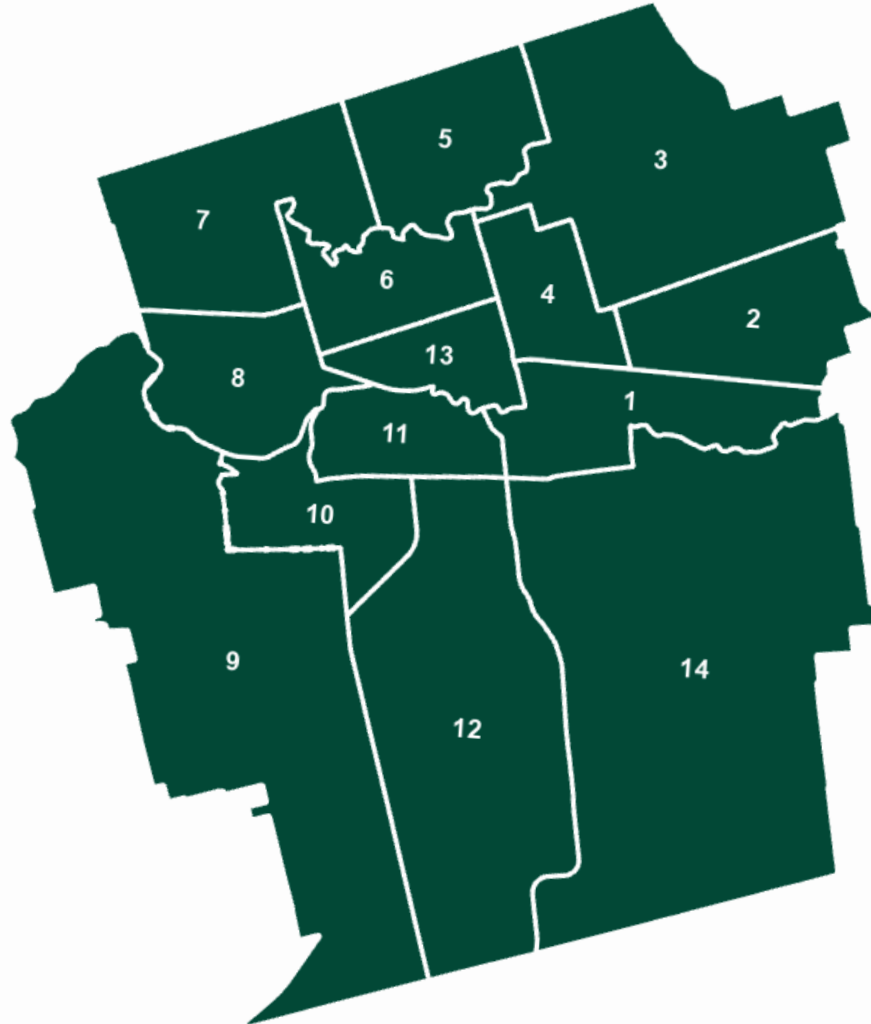


## Educational Videos



# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Existing Wards



Ward	Planning District	Area (sq. Km)
1	Hamilton Road, Glen Cairn*, South London*	16.98
2	Argyle*, Crumlin, East London*	18.01
3	Argyle*, Huron Heights*, Airport, Fanshawe, Carling*	44.71
4	East London*, Carling*, Huron Heights*	10.27
5	Masonville*, Stoneybrook, Stoney Creek, Uplands	17.63
6	North London, West London*, Medway*	12.48
7	Medway*, Sunningdale, Fox Hollow, Hyde Park*	27.13
8	Oakridge, West London*, Hyde Park	15.39
9	Byron*, River Bend, Wood Hull, Sharon Creek, Talbot, Bostwick*, Lambeth, Longwoods*, Tempo*	81.16
10	Byron*, Westmount, Highland*, Bostwick*	12.62
11	Southcrest*, South London, Highlands*	10.40
12	Highland*, White Oaks, Longwoods*, Westminster*, Brockley*, Tempo*	52.92
13	Central London, West London*, South London*, Southcrest*	8.77
14	Old Victoria, Bradley, Jackson, Glen Cairn*, Westminster*, Brockley, Glanworth, Highbury	94.61

\*indicates portion of the Planning District located within the ward boundary

# 2024 Ward Boundary Review



## Legislative Basis

Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a local municipality to:

Change the size of the Council

- Requirement that there be a minimum of five members, including the head of Council
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

Determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected

- May be elected by general vote, wards, or any combination of a general vote and wards
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

Divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards

- A by-law adopted by Council is subject to appeal rights

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* standardizes key elements:

- Date of elections
- Term of office
- Eligibility
- Counting of ballots



# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Guiding Principles



Balancing the current population distribution among the wards



Balancing the future population distribution among the wards based on projections



Respecting established neighbourhoods and communities



Respecting geographical features and the defining natural and infrastructure boundaries



City of London  
Review of Ward  
Boundaries  
Policy

Guiding  
Principles

Public  
Engagement

2022-2026

2026-2030

2030-2034

Three Terms of Council



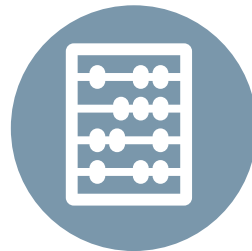
# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Changing Communities

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- Municipalities must navigate population growth, shifting demographics, and changing community needs.
- Outdated electoral arrangements, including electoral systems and governance structures, may lead to unequal representation and make it challenging for elected officials to best serve the varied and changing needs of communities.
- It is a standard municipal practice to review services considered “necessary or desirable” and organizational arrangements to deliver them – the structure of the body that makes authoritative decisions (the Council) should also be reviewed from time to time.

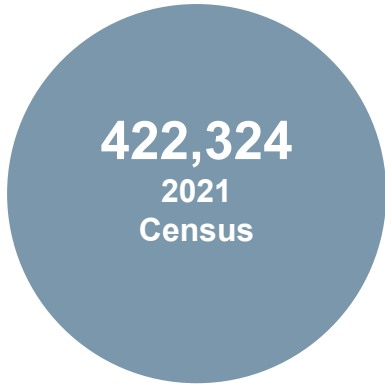


# Focus on London

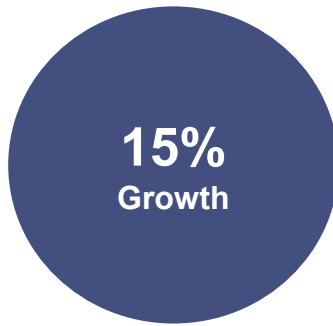
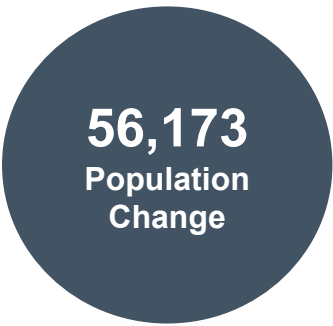
## Population and Growth



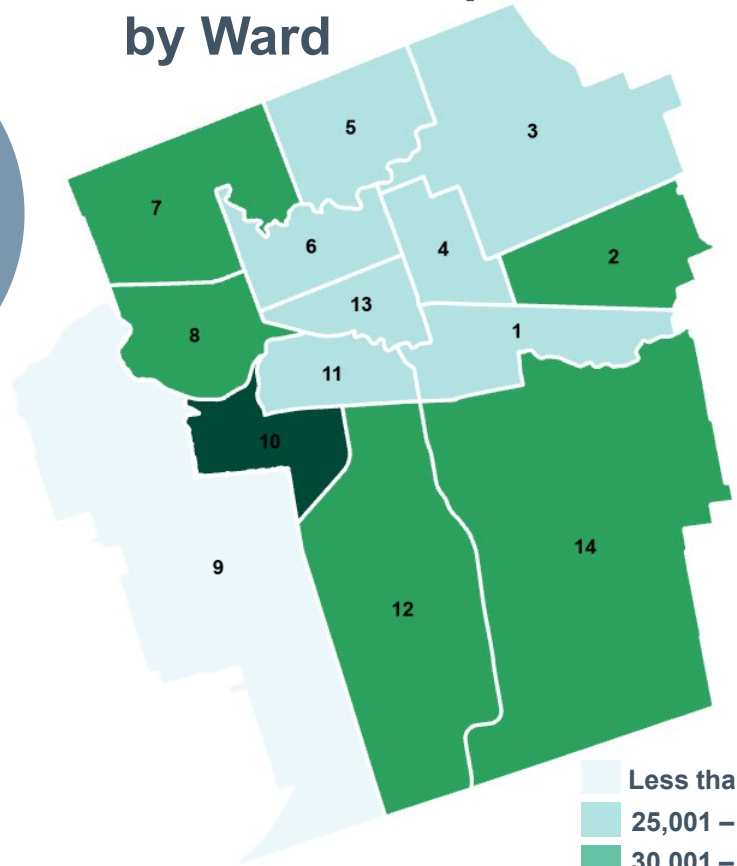
### Total London Population



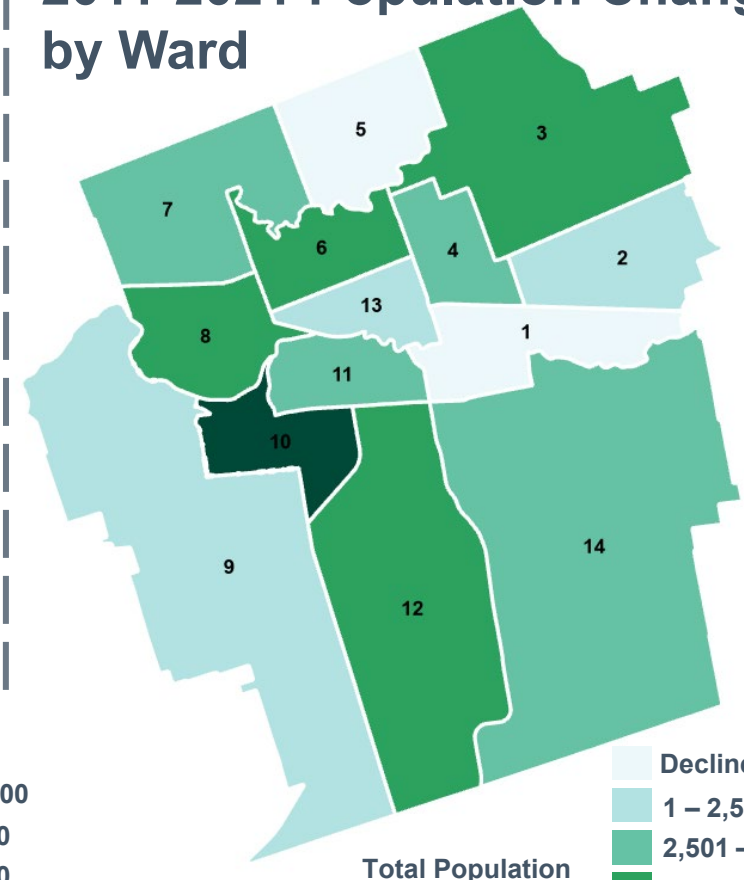
### 2011 – 2021 Total London Population Change



### 2021 Total Population by Ward



### 2011-2021 Population Change by Ward



Total Population (Count)

- Less than 25,000
- 25,001 – 30,000
- 30,001 – 35,000
- 35,001 – 40,000
- Greater than 40,000

Total Population Change (Count)

- Decline
- 1 – 2,500
- 2,501 – 5,000
- 5,001 – 7,500
- Greater than 7,500

# Focus on London

Past, Present and Future



2005

**Ontario  
Municipal  
Board imposes  
changes to  
London's ward  
boundaries**

2010

**Elimination of the  
Board of Control**  
Minor adjustments to  
ward boundaries and  
governance model

2010  
to  
2022

**Internal Reviews of  
Ward Boundaries**  
Reviews by Civic  
Administration in  
advance of municipal  
elections based on  
population data and  
guiding principles

2024

**2024 Ward  
Boundary Review**



2026

**Next Municipal  
Election**  
Any adjusted ward  
boundaries would  
be in effect for the  
October 26, 2026  
Municipal Election

# Focus on London

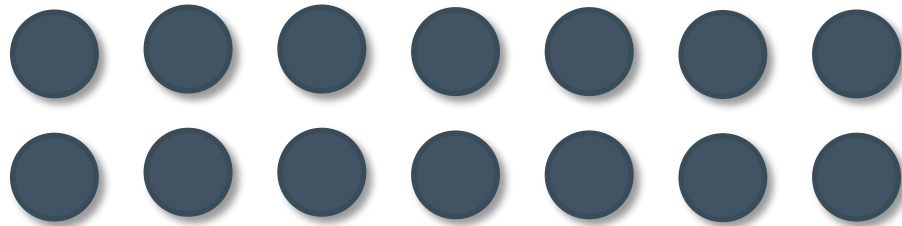


## London Council Composition and Representation in Big Cities



### Mayor

Elected at-large as the head of Council



### 14 Ward Councillors

Elected by ward as a local representative

The Deputy Mayor is nominated by the Mayor, confirmed by majority vote, and appointed

The Mayor may nominate a new Deputy Mayor throughout the Council Term

Municipality	2021 Population	Area (sq.km)	Council Members	Avg. Population per Member
Brantford	104,688	98.65	11	9,517
Cambridge	129,920	112.99	9	14,436
Chatham-Kent	103,988	42.4	18	5,777
Guelph	143,740	87.43	13	11,056
Kitchener	256,885	136.81	11	23,353
<b>London</b>	<b>422,324</b>	<b>420.50</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28,154</b>
St. Catharines	133,113	96.20	13	10,239
Waterloo	121,436	64.06	8	15,179
Windsor	229,660	146.02	11	20,878
<b>Average</b>	<b>182,862</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15,099</b>

Sample of Ontario Big Cities (Southwestern Ontario)  
Council Members include head of Council

# Next Steps

## Project Timelines and Activities

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**Today**

### **Introductory Workshop**

Introduce Consultant Team

Provide background information

Stimulate discussion

Provide Council with questions to consider



**Spring/  
Summer  
2024**

### **Information Collection**

Interview and engage with Members of Council

Collect core review themes and key considerations

Prepare Background Papers



**Fall  
2024**

### **Reflection and Evaluation**

Reflect on collected information

Evaluate existing ward boundaries

Explore alternatives



**Fall/  
Winter  
2024**

### **Recommendations and Report**

Engage community and stakeholders

Present alternative options

Prepare and deliver recommendations to Council



# Next Steps

## Interviews with Council

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Consider the following questions:

- What are the strongest attributes of the **present** wards?
- What are the weakest attributes of the **present** wards?
- Which of the **guiding principles** would you personally see as a priority during the Ward Boundary Review?
  - Which, in your mind, is least important?
- Are there areas of the City that appear to be **under-represented or over-represented**?